132d WING

SOCIAL MEDIA AWARENESS & PERSONAL RISK REDUCTION

Organizations are attempting to use our own personal information against us to create fear and anxiety among our ranks and within our families. We all have a responsibility to protect ourselves and our fellow service members and their families. We must reduce our vulnerabilities through active and vigilant monitoring of the information provided via the internet and social media sources.

BACKGROUND:

The potential security vulnerabilities and personal protection concerns posed by social networking sites are many. The use of the internet and social networking sites by either the personnel or family members can present unique security concerns that must be understood by all. It is likely that poor OPSEC and protection of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) could result in increased security and force protection risks to units, individual service members and family dependents.

Unknown friends and followers may exploit and elicit them for sensitive personal, financial and military information.

- Unintentional disclosure of Critical Information And PII may pose a risk to our personnel, families, and the mission
- Familiarize yourself with the Wing's Critical Information List (CIL) and remember that Critical Information and PII is not be posted on publicly accessible websites.
- Information that has been released to the Public domain, general locations, pride/support for organizations or individuals is safe to share or discuss.

GENERAL SOCIAL MEDIA SECURITY:

- Each social media site allows for all of your private profile information, as well as your posts, to be viewable by the public if you do not set the site's privacy settings to your desired level.
- Keep personal information away from others by setting your security settings to include only friends. Verify the identity of those you correspond with.
- Go through each of the privacy settings on each site that you frequent, and set them accordingly.
- Be on the lookout for Geo-Tracking features and disable them. Certain sites will track your physical location via a cell phone app, providing your exact whereabouts at any given time. Posted photographs from digital cameras may have GPS coordinates embedded.

BE CAREFUL OF WHAT YOU POST!

- Even with the strictest security settings in place, remember that there are certain details of your personal lives that if made public could be a security concern for you, your family or your unit.
- Information such as unit movements, deployments, personnel rosters, weapons information, or other command critical information should never be posted online.
- Do not share private information such as where your children go to school, home addresses, phone numbers, times and locations of events you plan to attend, or other information that allows someone to track your routines and possibly guess when and where you or your family might be.

HOME INTERNET SAFEGUARDS

- Secure your wireless network with unique names and passwords.
- Limit access to your wireless network.
- Ensure antivirus, anti-spyware and firewall software are up to date.
- Only send personal information through encrypted links.
- Avoid using public file sharing services.

MOBILE INTERNET SAFEGUARDS

- Assume mobile apps and public networks are unsecure.
- Consider using a Virtual Private Network (VPN).
- Change device settings to avoid automatic connection to any available public network.
- Only send personal information through encrypted links.

BEWARE OF UNSOLICITED EMAILS

- There is a threat of disclosing sensitive personal information from replying to phishing emails.
- Do not click on links or open email attachments from unsolicited email.
- Even when in receipt of email from a known source, consider the context of the email before responding. If necessary, verify source of email through independent means.

SOCIAL MEDIA "BOTTOM-LINE"

Although quite advanced, social networking sites are simply websites. Safe web browsing practices and OPSEC awareness are the best mitigation strategies for protecting all service members' information.

USE SOUND PERSONAL SECURITY

- Understanding and implementing sound personal security practices is critical to reducing their vulnerability while in the surrounding community.

KEEP A LOW PROFILE

- Minimize your profile by blending into the local community.
- Limit outward signs of DoD affiliation (using rank in your address, vehicle stickers, home decorations, using military slang in public).
- Consider manner of dress when out in public, to include shirts, hats, jackets, etc. that reference military, government or law enforcement affiliation.
- Consider not wearing your uniform to and from work.
- Uniformed service members present in public venues or attending public accessible events should exercise added vigilance.

HOME SECURITY

- Always lock doors, windows and garages.
- Do not open doors to strangers and report unsolicited contacts to local law enforcement.
- Make sure all family members are aware of home security plans to include children.
- Memorize key phone numbers – local law enforcement, fire, military police, and other first responders.

BE "UNPREDICTABLE"

- Be unpredictable through the smart application of behavior, routines, or travel.
- Vary routes of travel on a routine basis

MAINTAIN SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

- Be alert. Maintain good situational awareness by staying alert, knowing what to look for and what is wrong or out of place.

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING

- Report all incidents of suspicious activity to appropriate authorities.
- Report all suspicious activities observed on/near the base IAW Eagle Eyes - immediately contact 132 SFS at 261-8220.
- Personnel who observe or have suspicious activity occur towards them or family while in their communities are to contact local law enforcement and then advise SFS & ATO of incidents.
- Attempt to provide a complete description of the suspicious person and/or vehicle.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

132d SECURITY FORCES
CRIME STOPPER
515-261-8228
BDOC: 515-261-8220
EMERGENCY: 911

Produced April 2015
132 WG/OPSEC PM
515-261-8275